GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4067
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2008
DIRECT TO HOME SERVICE
Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.;Yadav Shri Giridhari

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has provided the TV Channel operators to broadcast its channels free of cost through Direct-to-Home (DTH) service;

(b) if so, the details thereof, channel-wise;

(c) whether these operators are charging money from the public for showing these channels;

(d) if so, the reasons for providing DTH facility free of cost to the operators; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADASTING(SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b): Doordarshan has informed that all its channels are free-to-air only. No monthly subscription is required to be paid for receiving TV channels through DD DTH platform. However, DTH operators shall carry or include their DTH service the TV channels which have been notified for mandatory & compulsory carriage as per the provisions of Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 as amended.

(c): The private DTH operators can charge fee from subscribers to cover the costs of operation, maintenance etc. as they are not providing any stand-alone service consisting of Free to Air channels of Doordarshan. Further private operators are paying license fee @ 10% of gross revenue to the Government in terns of clause 3 of License Agreement.

(d) & (e): Doordarshan a public service broadcaster through its DTH service called DD Direct Plus is made available free of cost to all viewers in the country and also to cover all uncovered areas where terrestrial signals are not available. Doordarshan thus ensure 100% coverage of the area and population of the country.